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communities. One last thing: Not only is the funding critical for these two hospitals, but with the whole critical access hospital system that has been created I think you would be hard-pressed to find a better stabilizing effect on economic development in rural communities. So I think this is especially important and would urge that you support both the committee amendment and the bill.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Kruse, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in support of the amendment and the bill, and simply want...and the good things about it have been said. I simply want to add that this is a part of an ongoing thing, ongoing for 30 years. I can document it because I was there when the Broken Bow community agreed to a remarkable alliance with the Med Center. In fact, it was the requirement of building that hospital that the Med Center develop the specs for that hospital and that they would do it that way. So we're not talking about upgrading what used to be our hospital in Broken Bow, kind of a rinky-dink outfit. We're talking about a heads-up operation, looking ahead and ongoing progress, and I'm very proud of what Senator Cudaback and those who join him are doing. Thank you.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm also in very much support of the amendment and of the bill. One of the things that I do have a question about, and I would like to probably ask the question of Senator Cudaback, if he'd respond, please.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Cudaback, will you respond?

SENATOR CUDABACK: I will.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Senator Cudaback, on this information that was placed on our desk and it has the eligible hospitals for this critical access, and there's Holdrege and Broken...and McCook, they're not part of this, or can they be a part of it?